Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Tuesday 26 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 26 Dec 2023 at 03:22

Confidence: High for a window of quiet, settled weather during daytime on Boxing day then for it to turn more unsettled again. Lower confidence for rain or snow details from Thursday onwards.

Headline for Tuesday 26 Dec 2023: Dry and bright with light winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 26 Dec 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** No Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow showers (night)	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation probability					
30%	10%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%

Forecast for Tuesday 26 Dec 2023

Weather: A dry and bright day but high cloud thickening from the southwest during the afternoon. Feeling cold.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Mainly 95% but 60% overnight and early morning.

Low cloud and visibility: Mainly excellent visibility. Patchy cloud and fog above 400m overnight and early morning.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday 26 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	31/37 NW	22/26 NW	18/22 W	10/13 W	7/8 SE	17/22 SE	33/41 SE
600	22/27 NW	14/19 W	14/18 W	6/9 W	6/7 SE	18/25 SE	26/36 SE
300	8/23 NW	3/16 NW	5/15 W	3/8 W	3/6 E	7/18 SE	10/26 SE
Valley	7/24 NW	4/17 NW	5/14 W	2/7 NW	4/6 E	6/17 SE	9/25 E

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-2/-11	-1/-8	-1/-7	-1/-6	-1/-4	-1/-7	-1/-10
600	0/-7	0/-5	1/-4	1/-2	1/-2	1/-5	0/-6
300	3/-1	2/0	4/2	3/2	2/1	3/-0	3/-1
Valley	5/2	4/3	6/5	6/5	5/3	5/2	5/2
Freezing Level*	600m	500m	700m	700m	600m	700m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Boxing day looks set to be the most settled day of the week before a dramatic deterioration on Wednesday. Beware of icy surfaces underfoot above 600m.

Forecast for Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Weather: Rain, with snow and blizzards above 400m, arriving overnight. Snow turning to rain at all levels in the morning but remaining persistent, and heavy at times, through the day. Drenching conditions with strong winds. Clear spells and showers in evening, wintry above 700m and possibly thundery.

Maximum wind: Southeast 40mph gust 60mph becoming South or Southwest 20 to 30mph gust 45mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Almost zero chance.

Low cloud and visibility: Poor for most of the time in rain or snow with extensive cloud and fog above 600m. Blizzards on the tops at first. Cloud lifting and becoming patchy in the evening.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5C rising to 9C.
At 800m: Minus 1C rising to 5C, falling to Plus 1C in evening.
Freezing level: 500m rising above summits in the morning, falling to 900m in evening.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement
Date: Monday 25 December, Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:25. Full report:
A very Happy Christmas from the Fell Top Assessing team of Jon, Zac & Wes. I (Jon) have done several Christmas Day ascents of Helvellyn and today's was the quietest (only met 3 fellow walkers on the fell) and the only one where there was absolutely no snow whatsoever on the entire walk to put my boots into; there being neither snow nor ice on the Lakeland paths and fells. There was, though, a lot of water!! With the lack of winter conditions, the main hazards encountered today were the saturated ground and the wet, slippery rocks underfoot, especially on steep and exposed terrain, such as on the Helvellyn Edges, combined with the gusty nature of the wind – although the wind strength has noticeably lessened compared with previous days. Despite the milder weather in the valleys, the summit temperature was not far off zero - plus 3 degrees C - with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) below at minus 5 degrees C just after midday. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely roam the fells. This is not just for safety, but also for enjoyment as the current forecast for Boxing Day predicts that the summits could be places to linger and enjoy spectacular views! Far more comfortable if you have an extra layer to put on! However, the current forecast also predicts a chance of overnight snow at altitude combined with dropping temperatures. With the ground being saturated, this would create icy conditions. So, walkers attempting the highest peaks on Boxing Day should be prepared to encounter ice on rocks and snow above c800m. Keep updated on weather forecasts and check temperatures when you start your walk remembering that temperature falls on average around 2 degrees C for every 300m of ascent.
Temperature: plus 3.1degC, Maximum wind speed 32.3mph, Wind chill: minus 4.7degC, Average wind speed: 19.7mph.

Issued at: 03:22 on Tue 26 Dec 2023

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